

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PTD/LCW/2769PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
	See item 4 below	
International application No. PCT/GB2005/004177	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 28 October 2005 (28.10.2005)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 29 October 2004 (29.10.2004)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant SMITH & NEPHEW, PLC		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet. In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application
4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

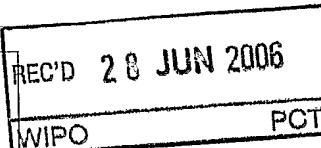
	Date of issuance of this report 01 May 2007 (01.05.2007)
The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer Nora Lindner e-mail: pt02.pct@wipo.int

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220



P.C.T

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/004177

International filing date (day/month/year)
28.10.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
29.10.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. A61M1/00 A61M3/02 A61M27/00 A61F13/00

Applicant

SMITH & NEPHEW, PLC

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan
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Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Lakkis, A

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4136



Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 the international application in the language in which it was filed
 a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 on paper
 in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of

- the entire international application
- claims Nos. 14

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 14 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international search (*specify*):

see separate sheet

 - the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
 - the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 14
- a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:
 - furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 - furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 - pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b).
- a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
- the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
- See Supplemental Box for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/004177

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-13
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-13
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.10)
and / or
2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.9)

see form 210

Re Item III

Rules 39.1(iv) and 67.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

Re Item V

The following documents are referred to in this communication:

D1 : WO 02/092783 A (CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION) 21 November 2002 (2002-11-21)

D2: WO 2004/037334 A (SMITH & NEPHEW PLC; BLOTT, PATRICK, LEWIS; GREENER, BRYAN; HARTWELL, E) 6 May 2004 (2004-05-06)

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 (paragraph 62, figures 8a, 9) discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) all technical features of claim 1:

An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising a fluid flow path comprising a conformable dressing having a backing layer (115), at least one inlet (145) and one outlet (150) pipe, a biodegradable scaffold (105) located under the backing layer, a fluid reservoir (130), a device for moving fluid (pump 160 or vacuum, pressure or siphon, see paragraph 62, lines 20-21), means for providing simultaneous aspiration and irrigation (see figure 9 where the device for moving fluid is connected such that aspiration and irrigation are achieved simultaneously), such that fluid may be supplied to fill the flow path from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube while fluid is aspirated by a device through the fluid offtake tube.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 12,13

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the

subject-matter of claims 12 and 13 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) all technical features of claims 12 and 13:

A conformable dressing for use in an apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a backing layer (115), at least one inlet (145) and one outlet (150) pipe the point at which each inlet and outlet pipe passes through and/or under the wound-facing face forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure and

A dressing assembly for use in an apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a dressing according to claim 12 and a biodegradable scaffold (105), which is located under the wound dressing in use.

Note that the dressing described in D2 (see figure 1 and related description) also discloses all technical features of claim 12, whose subject matter is thus not considered in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT new over D2, either.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-11

Dependent claims 2-11 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT). See the documents and passages cited in the search report.

Re Item VI Certain documents cited

Intermediate documents WO 2005/051461 and/or WO 2005/046762 of the same applicant could also become relevant.

Re Item VIII

Clarity issues (Article 6 PCT):

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/004177

Claim 1 contains several optional features which have no limiting effect on the scope of the claim.

Claims 8 and 11 contains disclaimers ("does not comprise other means...") which render them unclear.

Claims 6-8, 10, 11 refer to a not before defined first and/or second device.